



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
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Washington, D.C.

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Office of Communications Media Advisory

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National Park Service to accept transfer of African-American Civil War Memorial from District of Columbia

WHAT: Ceremony to officially transfer title of the African-American Civil War Memorial from the District of Columbia to the National Park Service. Officials from the National Park Service and the District of Columbia will speak, noting the transfer of this memorial to the National Park Service.

This memorial commemorates the service of 209,145 African-American Civil War-era soldiers and sailors. By supporting the Union, these servicemen advanced the cause of freedom for more than four million enslaved people.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 27th, 2004, at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: At the intersection of U Street, 10th Street and Vermont Avenue, N.W. News crew vehicle parking is on your own.

WHO: Don Murphy, Deputy Director, National Park Service;
Terry Carlstrom, Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service;
Vikki Keys, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks;
Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C. Delegate to Congress;
Daniel Tangherlini, Director, District of Columbia Department of Transportation.

BACKGROUND: The African-American Civil War Memorial is the first memorial in the country to honor all African-American Union troops and their officers. The 15-foot bronze statue, entitled "Spirit of Freedom," features images of black troops, sailors and contraband slaves liberated by union forces. Louisville, KY sculptor Ed Hamilton created the statue; it was unveiled July 18, 1998. The plaza surrounding the statue contains stainless steel plaques with the names of the Civil War servicemen.

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